

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 ALEXAN 00058 241523Z

46

ACTION SS-15

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 /026 W
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R 241335Z AUG 75
FM USDEL ALEXANDRIA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 046
INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO

C O N F I D E N T I A L ALEXANDRIA 0058

FOR UNDER SECRETARY ROBINSON FROM AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: EMIN ECON
SUBJECT: ABU TARTUR PROJECT

1. FAHMY ASKED ME THE OTHER DAY WHETHER WE WOULD BE WILLING TO TAKE OVER ENTIRE ABU TARTUR PROJECT. IF SO, HE COULD ARRANGE TO GET SOVIETS PUSHED OUT OF IT. HE RECALLED THAT AT YOUR MEETING WITH SADAT AT BORG EL-ARAB, YOU HAD INDICATED WE WILLING TO ASSIST WITH ABU TARTUR. I POINTED OUT THAT YOU HAD NOT RPT NOT BEEN REFERRING TO DIRECT USG PARTICIPATION. IN YOUR PREVIOUS INCARNATION AS BUSINESSMAN, YOU HAD BEEN INTERESTED IN ABU TARTUR AND CONTINUE TO BELIEVE THAT AMERICAN PRIVATE FIRM, IF GIVEN OPPORTUNITY, COULD SERVE EGYPT WELL. FAHMY INSISTED YOU HAD BEEN TAKING ABOUT USG INVOLVEMENT. I THINK HE FINALLY ACCEPTED THE POINT YOU WERE SPEAKING ABOUT AN AMERICAN FIRM.

2. RALPH M PARSONS HAS, WE UNDERSTAND, MADE SUCH OVERALL PROPOSAL, WHICH IS NOW PRESUMABLY BEING STUDIED. I THOUGHT YOU WOULD BE INTERESTED IN KNOWING ABOUT FAHMY'S PERTINENT COMMENT ON HIS WILLINGNESS TO HELP IN MOVING THE SOVIETS OUT OF ANY PART OF THE PROJECT. WHETHER HE COULD DO SO OR NOT IS, OF COURSE, A MOOT POINT. WHAT FAHMY HAS IN MIND, OF COURSE, IS THAT WE -- EITHER OFFICIALLY OR PRIVATELY -- FUND THE PROJECT. ANY IDEAS?
EILTS

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MINING INDUSTRY, PROGRAMS (PROJECTS)
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 24 AUG 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: johnsorg
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975ALEXAN00058
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750293-0174
From: ALEXANDRIA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750822/aaaaatch.tel
Line Count: 51
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 1
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: johnsorg
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05 AUG 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <05 AUG 2003 by KelleyW0>; APPROVED <23 DEC 2003 by johnsorg>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ABU TARTUR PROJECT
TAGS: EMIN, ECON, TC, US, UR
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006